

Education
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR SOMERSET ACADEMY

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approved the charter school application for Somerset Academy on December 12, 2001, and authorized the Superintendent to negotiate the charter school contractual agreement with the applicant for a term of ten (10) years commencing with the 2003-2004 school year. The Charter School Contract Review Committee met on February 7, 2002, and by a majority vote, made a recommendation for approval of the charter school contractual agreement.

Somerset Academy will be located at ±11101 SW 80 Avenue, Miami, Florida (an assigned address will be provided by the Post Office). The governing board will operate the school through a management contract with Academica Corporation, Fernando Zulueta, President. The charter school will serve a maximum of 800 students enrolled in grades Kindergarten through 8, with 600 students enrolled in grades Kindergarten through 5 in its first year of operation.

The following is the initial Board of Directors for Somerset Academy: Ms. Alejandra Abello, Mater Academy Charter School; Honorable Peter Deutsch, United States House of Representatives; Dr. Ruth Jacoby, Somerset Academy; and Ms. Hui Fang Huang (Angie) Su, Nova Southeastern University.

Somerset Academy will be open to any student residing in Miami-Dade County. District schools in close proximity to the charter school include:

School	Student Population	Percentage Utilization (Permanent and Relocatable Program Capacity)
Kendale Elementary	671	120
Kenwood Elementary	925	102
Leewood Elementary	697	126
Palmetto Elementary	747	121
Pinecrest Elementary	910	117
Vineland Elementary	750	124
Palmetto Middle	1,929	126

School	Student Population	Percentage Utilization (Permanent and Relocatable Program Capacity)
Southwood Middle	1,832	123

Section 228.056, Florida Statutes, Charter Schools, requires that the major issues involved in the operation of charter schools be considered in advance and written into a charter school contractual agreement between the charter school and the Sponsor, following a public hearing to ensure community input.

Copies of this charter school contractual agreement will be placed on file, and will be available for inspection in the School Board members' office, in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, and the Citizen Information Center.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve the charter school contractual agreement with Somerset Academy , for a period of ten years, commencing on the first day of the 2003-2004 school year.

MT:mb